

INDUSTRY BULLETIN 2015-13

May 13, 2015



Orders Approved under the Environmental Protection and Management Regulation

The BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) is notifying stakeholders of the following orders established within the last 12 months.

South Coast Region:

- Grizzly Bear WHAs 2-241, 2-271, 2-444 to 2-493, 2-526, 2-596.
- Vananda Creek Stickleback WHA 2-250.
- Mountain Goat UWR 2-015.
- Pacific Tailed Frog WHAs 2-511 to 2-513.
- Black-tailed Deer UWR 1-013.
- Keen's Long-eared Myotis WHA 1-391, 1-392, 1-395.
- Marbled Murrelet WHA 1-472, 1-473.

Sea to Sky Natural Resource District:

- Mountain Goat UWR 2-015.
- Marbled Murrelet WHAs 2-303 to 2-306, 2-308, 2-309.

Skeena and North Coast Region:

- Mountain Goat UWR 6-003 and 6-010.
- Moose UWR 6-009, 6-014 and 6-018.
- Grizzly Bear WHA 6-282.

These orders are posted on the Ministry of Environment (MOE) website. As per the Environmental Protection and Management Regulation (EPMR), the orders are legal under the Oil and Gas Activities Act (OGAA) and the Government Actions Regulation (GAR) of the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA). Additionally, 79 Old-Growth Management Areas (OGMAs) in the Dawson Creek Timber Supply Area (TSA) were approved in January 2015 and are posted on the Strategic Land and Resource Planning website.

Once an Ungulate Winter Range (UWR) or a Wildlife Habitat Area (WHA) has been legally established, it brings into effect "government's environmental objectives" for that area of wildlife habitat. The Commission must consider those objectives for wildlife and wildlife habitat when making a determination on a permit for a potential oil and gas activity within the approved WHA or UWR. If a permit is issued, the Commission must specify the oil and gas activities the operator is permitted to carry out, and may impose any conditions on the permit that the Commission considers necessary.

UWRs are designated to retain habitat necessary for the winter survival of ungulates, and generally cover large areas. WHAs are typically smaller in area, and address unique habitat requirements suitable for

calving, denning, breeding, rearing, and feeding. UWR and WHA boundaries are established based on telemetry, inventory and other research data, including habitat suitability mapping.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact:

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